



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Miladin P. Lazarov
Serial No. : 09/521,086
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Title : BIOCOMPATIBLE ARTICLE

Art Unit : 1773
Examiner : Paulraj, C.

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

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RESPONSE

In response to the action mailed June 20, 2001, please amend the application as follows:

In the claims:

Please cancel claims 4 and 18.

Please amend claims 1, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10, 11, 17 and 19 as follows:

--1. An article comprising a substrate which is coated at least partly with at least one layer, and on which there is at least partly a protein-, peptide-and/or saccharide-containing substance, where the layer directly adjacent to the substance comprises at least one metal selected from titanium, zirconium and hafnium, or a compound thereof with one or more nonmetals and/or semiconductors, or an alloy thereof with one or more other metals, and has been applied by means of electron beam vaporization under a pressure from 10^{-4} to 10^{-2} mbar.

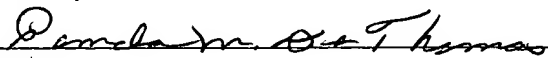
5. An article as claimed in claim 1, wherein the thickness of the layer is between 9 and 5 μm .

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I hereby certify under 37 CFR §1.8(a) that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail with sufficient postage on the date indicated below and is addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231.

December 20, 2001

Date of Deposit


Signature

Pamela M. DeThomas

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6. An article as claimed in claim 1, wherein the specific resistance of the layer is between 10 and $10\ \mu\Omega\text{cm}$.
7. An article as claimed in claim 1, wherein the layer which is directly adjacent to the substance and has been applied by electron beam vaporization has undergone an aging in air.
9. An article as claimed in claim 1, wherein the substance comprises at least albumin.
10. An article as claimed in claim 1, wherein the substrate consists of stainless steel, tantalum, Nitinol, titanium, gold, and/or polymer.
11. An article as claimed in claim 1, which is designed as a stent.
17. A method of using an article as claimed in claim 1, comprising the step of bringing said article into contact with human or animal blood or tissue or human or animal cells.
19. The method as claimed in claim 17, wherein a substance as claimed in claim 8 is used.--